



STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting. The State Soil Conservation Committee met on November 5 in Des Moines. Representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALS) provided an update on the Soil Conservation Cost Share Program for FY 2015. Information included:

- A total of 1,904 farmers utilized Soil Conservation Cost Share to implement practices.
- The State investment of \$9.8 million was matched with farmer contributions of \$12.8 million for a total investment of \$22.6 million for conservation practices.
- Conservation practices included terraces, grassy waterways, grade stabilization projects, sediment control basins, and other practices.
- For a copy of the full report visit the Department's [website](#):

Presentation. Lee White, retiree of the federal Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), gave a presentation on a new program called DamWatch. This is a web-based monitoring program that provides real-time information on flood control dams. The program in Iowa monitors 1,600 dams.

Agriculture Drainage Wells. The ongoing project in Humboldt County to close 12 agriculture drainage wells is on track. After the project is completed, there will be 36 agriculture drainage wells that remain open. The Department received an appropriation of \$1.9 million for FY 2016 and estimates eight wells will be closed with this funding and another nine wells will be closed in FY 2017 if the same amount of funding is appropriated for FY 2017. The Department will need funding to close the remaining 19 wells.

Federal Grant. The Department and the Pathfinders Resource, Conservation, and Development Group received a \$227,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the establishment of a monarch habitat on 3,300 acres of privately owned land in Iowa. The funds can be used for conservation projects that are funded with the Buffer Initiative Program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, the Abandoned Mine Land Program, and the Urban Conservation Program.

Additional Information. For additional information on the State Soil Conservation Committee, visit the Committee [website](#).

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